

Appl. No. 10/729,859
Amdt. dated May 16, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 16, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-14 are pending.

The Examiner's allowance of claims 5-8 is acknowledged with thanks.

Former independent claims 1 and 9 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,083,174 to Stenberg (hereinafter "Stenberg") or U.S. Patent No. 5,920,090 to Kub (hereinafter "Kub"). Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to add limitations of former claims 2 and 10. As the Examiner has indicated that former claims 2 and 10 would be in condition in allowance if re-written in independent form, it is believed that it is believed that amended independent claims 1 and 9 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled.

New claim 14 depends from claim 1 and is presented for consideration by the Examiner.

Consequential and clarifying amendments have been made to claims 3, 4, 8, 7, 12 and 13.


As claims 3-4 and 11-14 depend directly on independent claims 1 and 9, it is believed that these claims, too, are in condition for allowance.

No new matter has been added by any of the foregoing amendments.

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In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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